

The role of restorative justice as a powerful tool for rehabilitation, reintegration, and victim reparation: Applying research to implement (and advise) policy recommendations

Thematic Panel on Prisons, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

1-2 April 2025

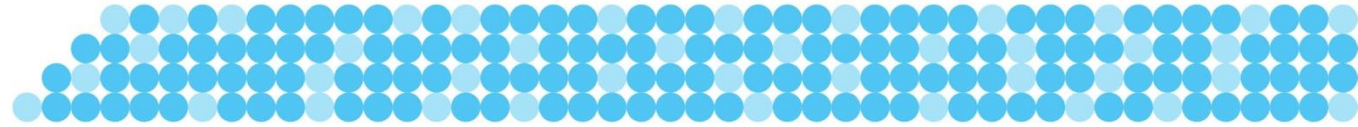
Brussels, Belgium

Prof. Theo Gavrielides, PhD

Restorative Justice for All International Institute

Cyprus and United Kingdom

www.theogavrielides.com



Agenda

- Introductions
- What is restorative justice?
- Restorative justice in international law
- Restorative Justice – Violent Radicalisation & Extremism
- RjINEAR – an evidence based psychosocial restorative justice model: Preventing & controlling violent radicalisation & Extremism
- From research to EU, national and local policy
- References & Further reading





RJ4All International Institute (RJ4All) - introductions

- “RJ4All Europe” in Cyprus and RJ4All UK
- Restorative Justice for All is a charitable international institute with a mission to address power abuse, criminality, conflict, and poverty through the use of restorative justice values and practices. We do this through a combination of restorative justice projects delivered both internationally, nationally and locally.
- We advance community cohesion, equality, human rights, we offer early interventions and rehabilitation/restoration opportunities and we redistribute power by delivering social justice and poverty relief projects, educational programmes and high-quality volunteering opportunities for marginalised groups.



What is restorative justice?

- The EC defines it as “*any process* whereby the victim and the offender are enabled, if they freely consent, to participate actively in the resolution of matters arising from the criminal offence through the help of an impartial third party” (European Parliament, 2012).
- The CoE defines it as “*any process* which enables those harmed by crime, and those responsible for that harm, if they freely consent, to participate actively in the resolution of matters arising from the offence, through the help of a trained and impartial third party” (Council of Europe, 2018).
- "Restorative Justice is an ethos with practical goals, among which is to repair harm by including affected parties in a (direct or indirect) encounter and a process of understanding through voluntary and honest dialogue. Restorative justice adopts a fresh approach to conflicts and their control, retaining at the same time certain rehabilitative goals" (Gavrielides, 2007; [2012](#))

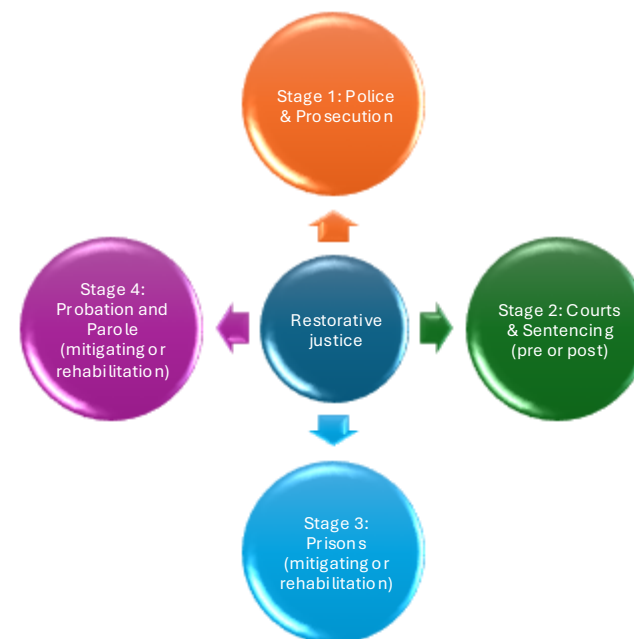


What is restorative justice in practice?

- **Direct restorative justice practice:** involves a face-to-face and/or online encounter between harmed and harming parties, including Victim-Offender Mediation (VOM), Family Group Conferencing (FGC), Restorative Justice Circles (RJC).
- **Indirect restorative justice practice:** involves an indirect communication between harmed and harming parties including letter exchange, video or audio file exchange.

The key difference between the 3 main restorative justice practices lies in the number and nature of the parties involved.

- Victim-Offender mediation: Victim, offender and mediator only
- Family Group Conferences: Victim, offender, their family, friends, the facilitator and other professionals such as social workers, psychologists etc
- Circles: Victim, offender, circle keeper, family, friends, affected community members, professionals.





Restorative Justice in international law

1985

- [The UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power](#) (United Nations, 1985).

1999

- [CoE Recommendation No. R \(99\) 19 concerning mediation in penal matters](#) (Council of Europe, 1999).

2012

- The EC [Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA](#) (European Parliament, 2012).

2018

- The CoE [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\) 8 concerning restorative justice in criminal matters](#) (Council of Europe, 2018).

2002

- [The UN Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters](#) (Council of Europe, 2002).

2021

- [The CoE “Venice Declaration on the Role of Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters](#) (Council of Europe, 2021).



Restorative justice – Violent Radicalisation & Extremism

Traditional approach

- *Risk Need Responsivity Model* - focusing on the negative traits that lead adults and young people to harm and antisocial behaviour. (Andrews, Bonta and Hope, 1990)
- However, concentrating on criminogenic needs is not a sufficient condition when it comes to building psychosocial resilience against the factors that lead to violence and harm including extremism.

Restorative justice approach

- A positive approach to rehabilitation and the reduction of recidivism in the context of violent radicalisation and extremism. The word *positive* signifies an approach that is appreciative rather than deficit centred.
- It aligns with a *systemic approach*: it requires a deep understanding of the social environment, radicalisation processes, families and social field
- It requires building *trust and working alliances*
- Provides an opportunity for *families and communities* to be there for a holistic mechanism in place





RJiNEAR – an evidence based psychosocial restorative justice model: Preventing & controlling violent radicalisation & Extremism

RJiNEAR model means "Restorative Justice through: I, myself, New Knowledge about myself, Emotional intelligence, Awareness of values, of options, of choice and Responding with growth 'in spite of ...'

Restorative Justice – Positive Psychology – Positive Criminology

Shift of focus:

- Instead of “managing” people as “risks”, the model focuses on promoting talents and strengths and through this approach help develop positive identities.
- The model also draws on community power and community involvement in proving a holistic approach to preventing extremist ideologies and indeed violent actions motivated by hate and extremism.



RJiNEAR – an evidence based psychosocial restorative justice model: Preventing & controlling violent radicalisation & Extremism

www.theogavrielides.com/rjterrorism

RJiNEAR model means
"Restorative Justice through:

I, myself,

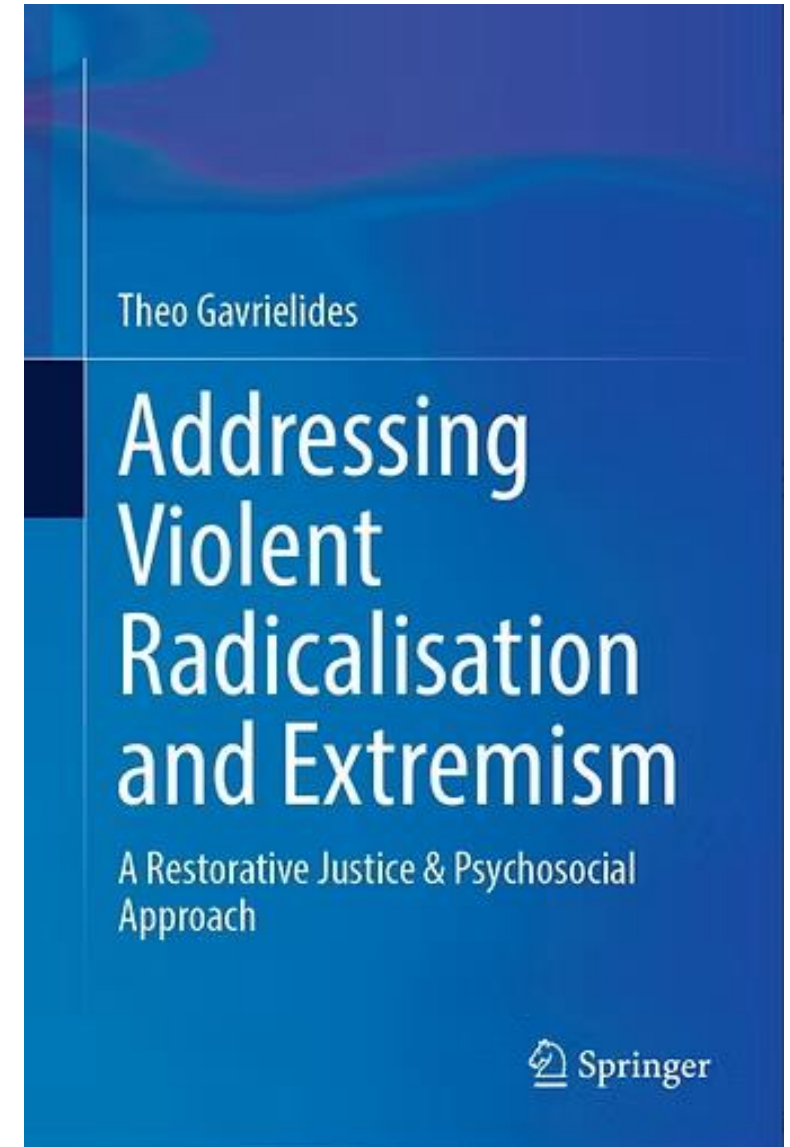
New Knowledge about myself,

Emotional intelligence,

Awareness of values, of options, of choice and

Responding with growth 'in spite of ...'

- Empirically validated psychological intervention - a model of resilience, crime prevention and control.
- Understands **resilience** as a capacity that can be expanded.
- Its overarching Theory of Change is **transformation through participation**.



RJiNEAR: Evidence from piloting in 12 European countries – an 8- year journey

UK, Greece, Cyprus,
Italy, Sweden,
Portugal, Belgium,
France, Turkey, Spain,
Romania, Ireland

Gavrielides, T. (2025a). *Addressing Violent Radicalisation and Extremism: A Restorative Justice & Psychosocial Approach*. Springer.

PART II: PERSPECTIVES PILOTED: SIX CASE STUDIES

Chapter 5: Case study 1 – preventing violent youth radicalisation: Large-scale pilots in the UK, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Sweden, Romania, and Portugal.

Chapter 6: Case study 2 - online violent youth radicalisation and the youth-led method for prevention.

Chapter 7: Case study 3 - understanding online violent youth radicalisation: Pilots in the UK, Cyprus, Greece, Belgium and France.

Chapter 8: Case study 4 - preventing violent radicalisation in the criminal justice system: Pilots in the UK, Turkey, Spain, Romania, Ireland and Italy.

Chapter 9: Case study 5 - preventing group and radical youth violence: A small-scale, community-based pilot in the UK.

Chapter 10: Case study 6 - building youth resilience through sports, art and restorative justice: A multi-year, ongoing community-based pilot in the UK.

RJiNEAR: Snippets of effectiveness in recidivism & resilience

Implementing environments

- ✓ Adult prisons & youth offending institutions (control – recidivism - resilience)
- ✓ Schools (prevention - resilience)
- ✓ Universities (prevention - resilience)
- ✓ Online (prevention - resilience)

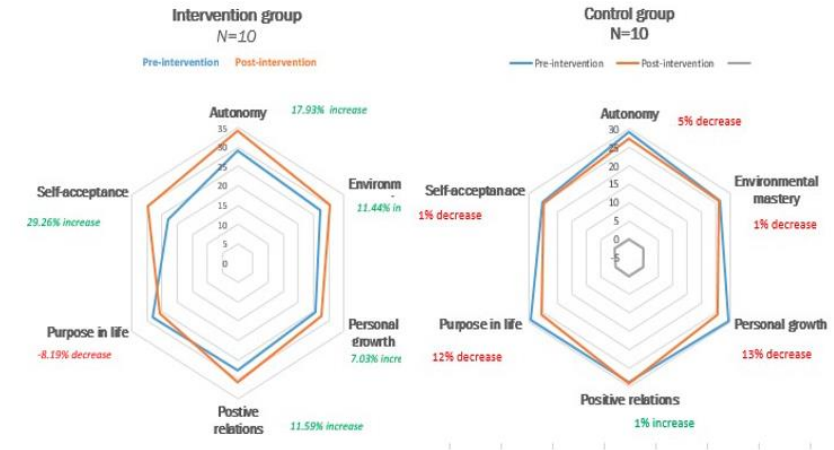


Figure 6: Ryff's Psychological well-being scale for UK young offenders pre and post RJiNEAR

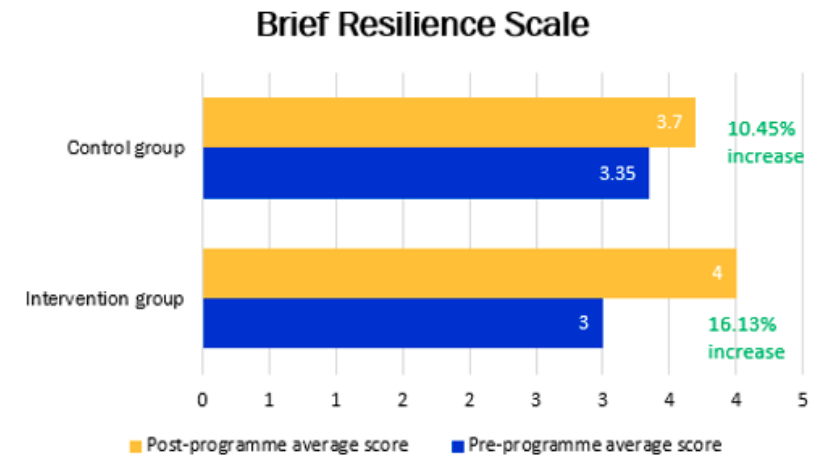


Figure 7: Resilience in UK young offenders pre and post RJiNEAR

RJiNEAR: Snippets of effectiveness in recidivism & resilience

Summary findings

- ✓ Improved recidivism
- ✓ Improved resilience psychosocial domains
 - ✓ Positive identity: self-concept; self-relatedness; self-presentation; self-worth; self-efficacy.
 - ✓ Emotional intelligence & relational competence: emotional regulation; relating to others; empathy.
 - ✓ Ideological flexibility & social liaison: perception of choice, options and alternatives; citizenship and diversity; community.
 - ✓ Responding with resilience
 - ✓ Restorative justice ethos: power-sharing; identifying, forging and restoring social liaison; pain and reconstruction.
- ✓ Improved victim and community satisfaction

Brief Resilience Scale

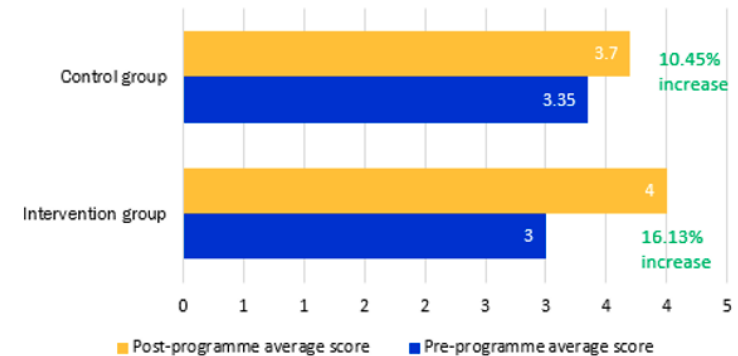


Figure 7: Resilience in UK young offenders pre and post RJiNEAR

Table 8: Impact of RJiNEAR on Cypriot youth sample's well-being

Item	p-value	Mean (Std)	
		Control	Intervention
Autonomy	0.321	22.76 (6.226)	24.46 (6.630)
Environmental Mastery	0.036	23.93 (7.010)	27.86 (6.737)
Personal Growth	<0.001	18.93 (5.126)	25.64 (6.657)
Positive Relations	0.005	19.79 (7.321)	25.71 (8.114)
Purpose in Life	0.899	22.52 (5.616)	27.71 (6.073)
Self-Adherence	<0.001	15.79 (5.846)	27.25 (8.072)

CALL FOR CASE STUDIES
GET YOUR VOICE HEARD
ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
WITH HATE VIOLENCE

DEADLINE: 12TH OF FEBRUARY 2025

To learn more
scan the QR Code



**MAKE YOUR NEXT
5 MINUTES COUNT FOR HATE VICTIMS**

t.gaurielides@rj4all.org | +44(0)17732569000

Implementing restorative justice for hate violence: A Practical Guide

The [Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights \(ODIHR\)](#) of the [Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#) works to improve hate crime victim support systems across the OSCE region through policy advice and guidance.

OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization, comprising 57 States from Europe, Central Asia and North America. OSCE participating States have agreed to a set of political commitments to strengthen stability, peace and democracy in the region. ODIHR is OSCE's human rights institution, providing support, assistance and expertise to participating States and civil society to promote inclusion and address hate

ISBN: 978-1-911634-22-5 | Journal ISSN (online): 2054-2985 | IJRJ@rj4allpublications.com

IJRJ INTERNET JOURNAL OF
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

December 2020

**VIOLENT YOUTH RADICALISATION:
PERSPECTIVES
AND SOLUTIONS**

Published and Copyrights © RJ4ALL Publications
 Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Tino Gavrielides
 Guest editors: Dr. Eliza Palouris and
 Associate Professor Thomas Toscano

**SPECIAL
ISSUE
3**

The Internet Journal of Restorative Justice (IJRJ) is the leading, international peer-reviewed journal on restorative justice. It was established in 2012 to push the boundaries of criminal justice by adopting a unique, practical approach to researching and investigating restorative justice. The journal is committed to nurturing fresh thinking and innovation.



From research to EU, national and local policy

- Consultation responses
- Awareness raising
- Policy Toolkit
- OSCE Practical Guide on implementing restorative justice for hate crime
- European Commission in the framework of the [High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime](#).
- [Special Issue Internet Journal of Restorative Justice](#)



References: Further reading

- Council of Europe. (1999). *Recommendation No. R (99) 19 concerning mediation in penal matters*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe
- Council of Europe. (2002). *Basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters*. Vienna: Council of Europe,
- Council of Europe. (2018). *Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States concerning restorative justice in criminal matters*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe
- Council of Europe. (2021). *Venice Declaration on the Role of Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters*. Venice: Council of Europe
- European Parliament. (2012). *Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA*. Belgium
- Gavrielides, T. (2007b). *Restorative Justice Theory & Practice: Addressing the Discrepancy*. HEUNI.
- Gavrielides, T. (2021a). *Comparative Restorative Justice*. Springer.
- Gavrielides, T. (2021b). *Power, Race & Justice: The restorative dialogue we won't have*. Routledge.
- Gavrielides, T. (2025a). *Addressing Violent Radicalisation and Extremism: A Restorative Justice & Psychosocial Approach*. Springer.
- Gavrielides, T. (2025). "Race hate and restorative justice: An evaluation of a small-scale youth intervention". *Internet Journal of Restorative Justice*, 12(1), ISSN (online): 2056-2985
- United Nations. (1985). *Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*. New York: United Nations



Thank you for your attention!

Prof. Theo Gavrielides, PhD
Founder & Director

Restorative Justice for All International Institute

- **Cyprus** <https://www.rj4all.eu/>
- **UK** <https://rj4all.org/>

T.Gavrielides@rj4all.org



EU Knowledge Hub on
**Prevention of
Radicalisation**



European
Commission